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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/309,038 05/10/99 HEIFETZ

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EXAMINER

MEHTA, A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1638

DATE MAILED:

09/27/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/309,038

Applicant(s)

Heifetz et al

Examiner

Ashwin Mehta

Group Art Unit

1638

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 10, 1999.

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☒ Claims 1-72 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☒ Fax Cover Sheet

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-40 and 45-70^{and 72}_X drawn to a method comprising introducing into a cell a sense and antisense RNA fragments, or DNA sequences encoding them, of a viral genome or portion thereof, wherein the sense and antisense fragments are capable of forming a double-stranded RNA molecule and expression of said viral genome or portion thereof is altered; cells comprising the sense and antisense RNA fragments; plant cells, plants derived therefrom, and seeds comprising said sense and antisense RNA fragments; DNA construct comprising DNA sequences capable of expressing said sense and antisense RNA fragment,, classified in class 800, subclass 279, for example.
- II. Claims 41-44 and 71, drawn to a method comprising introducing into a cell DNA sequences capable of expressing viral sense and antisense RNA, wherein the DNA sequences further comprise site-specific recombination sites, classified in class 435, subclass 462, for example.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions have different functions and effects. The method of Group I does not require the site-

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specific recombination of the method of Group II. The method of Group II does not require the plant cells of Group I.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

Please note: In an effort to enhance communication with our customers and reduce processing time, Group 1640 is running a Fax Response Pilot for Written Restriction Requirements. A dedicated Fax machine is in place to receive your responses. The Fax number is 703-305-3704. A Fax cover sheet is attached to this Office Action for your convenience. We encourage your participation in this Pilot program. Thank you in advance for allowing us to enhance our

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customer service. Please limit the use of this dedicated Fax number to responses to Written Restrictions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Examiner Ashwin Mehta, whose telephone number is (703) 306-4540. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Paula Hutzell, can be reached at (703) 308-4310. The fax phone number for the group is (703) 305-3014. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of the application should be directed to THE MATRIX CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER, whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


PAULA K. HUTZELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Ashwin D. Mehta

September 18, 2000